



Arrhythmias and Clinical EP

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION, PREVALENCE AND RISK FOR MORTALITY IN VERY OLD MEN AND WOMEN

Poster Contributions

Poster Hall B1

Monday, March 16, 2015, 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Session Title: Risks for Atrial Fibrillation: Where Do We Look?

Abstract Category: 4. Arrhythmias and Clinical EP: AF/SVT

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Background: Few studies have examined the prevalence of atrial fibrillation at very high ages and the importance of atrial fibrillation for mortality after age 80. The aim of the present study was to investigate the prevalence of atrial fibrillation between ages 70 and 100 in representative population samples and the importance of atrial fibrillation for mortality over a period of 30 years up to the age of 100 years.

Methods: Three representative samples of 70-year-old men and women (n=2629) from the population study of elderly people in Gothenburg (H-70) were included between 1971 and 1982. The participants were examined at age 70 years and were re-examined repeatedly during follow up. Atrial fibrillation was diagnosed according to ECG registrations at baseline and follow-up examinations in combination with diagnoses from the Swedish Hospital Patient Register. Mortality data were collected from the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, register of causes of death.

Results: The prevalence of atrial fibrillation in men was 5.2 % at age 70, 13.7 % at age 80, 20.4 % at age 90 and 33 % at age 100. In women the corresponding figures were 2.2 % at age 70, 7.5 % at age 80, 17.3 % at age 90 and 26.8 % at age 100. The importance of atrial fibrillation for mortality was higher before age 80 compared with higher ages. The over mortality related to atrial fibrillation was higher in women than in men before age 80. No sex differences were found at higher ages.

Conclusion: The prevalence of atrial fibrillation increased markedly after age 70. Atrial fibrillation in the elderly was associated with substantially increased risk for mortality. Sex differences decreased after age 80.